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January 2021

DCA NEWSLETTER

ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7:30pm

Dear Member:

Covid 19 has affected our families, our work, community businesses, and even impacted our civic activities. Our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones or endured the physical or economic impact of the virus. We have not been able to have our monthly meetings, but we have been hard at work behind the scenes. Our first response to the CV-19 shut down was to publish a comprehensive compendium of the status of businesses in Douglaston, Little Neck, and Bayside, we hope it was helpful to you. Please make an extra effort to support our local businesses.

Our community has been under attack from the City and Developers in an alarming rate from the bike lanes, to apartment houses, to rating new houses R-3 (multi-family) not R1-2, to higher real estate taxes, the city's attempt to eliminate one family houses, the loss of our grocery and other stores, the paving of wetland trails and opening concession stands behind APEC, and now a homeless shelter. I have outlined our actions for each of these issues on the back of this flyer. We have not gotten support from our elected officials who remain quiet. We need your support in both action and in contributions now more than ever. Thank you for your support. Please send in your **2021 Dues** and **Contributions as we consider legal actions**. Please contact your elected now! (Read Over & Visit our Web Page). Stay safe,

Sean M. Walsh, President

DOUGLASTON CIVIC NEWSLETTER UPDATE

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.DOUGCIVIC.COM

There will be a Board of Directors & Membership meeting via zoom on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 pm all members are welcome to attend via zoom: Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81970545168?pwd=aGt3RE5pYy9rT1cxZmZkQm56ZjdkQT09>
Meeting ID: 819 7054 5168 Passcode: 641886

Homeless Shelter Update

CB 11 Zoom Meeting, Monday, February 1st, 7:30pm

The Mayor in an effort to save money is warehousing the homeless throughout the city in “slumlike” inhumane structures. The Mayor is opening a homeless shelter for 72 women in what was the Pride of Judea building on Northern Blvd. At our upcoming meeting. We will discuss what legal and political actions we can take on February 9th. Meantime, please contact by phone, and email, and letters all your city elected officials and object to the city’s plans for the site. I have posted on our web site the contact information for our electeds. Make clear that this is an election issue, they need to know they are either with us or against us, speak up. Also, I have put my letter and that of others on the Web site as a model for you to use. They plan to have nine women in a multiple rooms of cots with one bathroom for every ten women. There is no outdoor recreation space. The city plans to have women stay at this location up to a year, this is in violation of the zoning that says the length of stay cannot be more than thirty days. Prisoners in our jails have better accommodations than these women. We are also taking a close look at the entanglements of the purchase and service contract of the parties involved at this and other similar sites throughout the city. Put pressure on your electeds and those now running for City council. I have been working with CB 11’s Zoning Committee and neighbors in the various meetings. CB 11 Board meeting is Feb. 1st 2021 you may sign up to speak by calling CB 11 and may attend by zooming: <https://zoom.us/j/94190042445>: The meeting ID is: 941 9004 2445.

Douglaston and Northern Apartment Building Update

We will be in short order be filing our appeal to stop the construction of the two apartment houses on Douglaston Parkway. Covid has slowed the court’s handling of this matter. We may need to file for additional injunctive relief if the current activity at the site moves from demolition of the garage to excavation. As of now there is no permit to build, we are monitoring this closely. Your continued donations in this endeavor is critical.

City: Single-Family Homes

There is a proposal by N.Y. City Council Speaker Johnson to establish long term planning process in a report called Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for NYC. The plan is extremely negative to single family homes in our communities, especially single family zones such as ours. The thrust of the plan is to say that single family zoning is “racist.” I find that hard to accept when I look at Southeast Queens or Corona as examples of a communities of color living in single family housing. This will be a topic of the upcoming Mayoral and City Council races. In my reviewing construction permits I have found that the Department of Buildings has designated on the construction or demo permits the lots to be R-3 not the proper legal designation of R1-2. R-3 permits two family occupancy. When I have pressed DoB on why they are doing this, I am stone walled. When I ask our elected officials, they say they have not received an answer. It is obvious that City Hall is openly hostile to communities like us. Please light a fire under our electeds today.

Paving Over Alley Pond Park

As you can see the Alley Pond Environmental Center is under construction. Board members Carol McCarthy & Bruce Stuart are monitoring the City’s plans to pave over trails for bikers and open a concession stand. Your thoughts? Board member Bernie Haber is still working on getting funding to move the bike lanes on Northern Blvd. Maybe with our next Mayor.

Little Neck Bay

Good News DCA and Congressman Tom Suozzi jointly initiated a meeting with all the stakeholders involved in preserving and protecting and cleaning up the LI Sound including our own Little Neck Bay. The purpose was to reintroduce all the stake holders and develop a joint united plan with priorities for cleaning up the LI Sound of which Little Neck Bay is a part. This will enable the group to present to Congressman Suozzi coordinated requests for funding. Board member Cecilia Venosta organized the effort and will coordinate this joint effort into the future. DAC will host on its Web site information from all these groups and as well as a discussion room. Thank you Congressman Suozzi for all your past and future efforts in saving the Sound. Our May / June membership meeting will have the LI sound as a topic.

Dues Due; Extra Contributions Welcome

The \$25 annual household dues for 2021 are now due. In addition, due to the pandemic dues collection was somewhat sporadic last year. That's not your fault, but as we face several legal battles we are asking members to also make up any arrears for 2020. (Email us if you're not sure if you paid last year, or with any other questions or concerns.) And, as we are committed to keeping the dues affordable, we also ask anyone who can do so to please make an additional contribution.

You can pay current and past dues, and make additional contributions by clicking on the DONATE button the website or by returning the envelope with the print version of this Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued generosity.